Companies incorporated outside India to open Liaison Offices in India. The number of Indian Companies with FDI for the period January 1,1991 to January 31, 2005 is 9248.

(b) Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions, including the choice of location and sector, are taken by the entrepreneur based on their commercial judgment and other considerations. Main sectors receiving Foreign Direct Investment, during the last three years, include electrical equipments including computer software; fuels including power and oil refinery; transportation industry, telecommunication, drugs and pharmaceuticals; metallurgical industry, chemicals and food processing industries.

(c) Government's policy initiatives, including the policy on Foreign Direct Investment, are aimed at creating an enabling environment promoting modernization and technological upgradation, productivity, efficiency and enhancing exports and competitiveness of Indian industry, thereby benefiting the economy in terms of growth, technological advancement and employment generation.

Interpretation of Press Note No. 18

774. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised norms pertaining to Press Note No. 18 still remains ambiguous and open to contradictory interpretations with the words "Same Field' and 'Defunct' etc;

(b) whether under the revised norms, all activities within automobile as a sector would be considered 'Similar[1] or would go into product categorisation as per national Industrial Classification Code; and

(c) with the BIFR going to be defunct soon, how the status of many undertakings under BIFR as 'Defunct' or 'Sick' can be declared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Government has, *vide* Press Note 1 (2005 series), issued fresh guidelines for approval of foreign/technical collaborations under the automatic route with previous venture/tie up in India. There is no ambiguity in the revised guidelines. According to these guidelines, prior Government approval through FIPB would be required only in cases where the foreign investor has an existing joint venture or technology transfer/trademark agreement in the 'same' field. The Government had *vide* Press Note 10

(1999 Series) notified the 'same' field as having the four digit national industrial Classification, 1987 code. Should there be a dispute in interpretation, the FIPB would decide after hearing the parties concerned.

Even in cases where the foreign investor has an existing joint venture or technology transfer/trademark agreement in the same field, prior Government approval will not be required if the existing venture/collaboration is defunct or sick. The status of existing joint venture/collaboration being defunct or sick is to be determined under the applicable law and guidelines.

Export of Wheat

†775. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to export wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of countries from which proposals have been received in this regard? *

THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Foodgrains, including wheat are permitted to be exported freely.

Export of Products from SEZs

†776. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the units working in Special Economic Zones set up in the country export the products;

(b) if so, the value of such exports by these units during the years of 2002-03,2003-04 and first six months of 2004-05;

(c) what is the percentage of this export to the total exports in the country during the above periods; and

(d) what is the value of products sold in indigenous market by these units during the above periods?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.